

Yellowstone

Official Map and Guide

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Yellowstone National Park is a treasure that inspires awe in travelers from around the world. New Zealand and Iceland are known for their geysers, but nowhere are there as many as in Yellowstone. At the heart of Yellowstone's past, present, and future lies volcanism. About 2 million years ago, then 1.2 million years ago, and then again 600,000 years ago, catastrophic volcanic eruptions occurred here. The latest eruption spread out nearly 240 cubic miles of debris. What is now the park's central portion then collapsed, forming a 28- by 47-mile caldera, or basin. The magmatic heat powering those eruptions still powers the park's famous geysers, hot springs, fumaroles, and mud pots. The spectacular Grand

Canyon of the Yellowstone River provides a glimpse of Earth's interior: its waterfalls highlight the boundaries of lava flows and thermal areas. Rugged mountains flank the park's volcanic plateau, rewarding both eye and spirit. Yellowstone's wildlife includes the American bison, elk, pronghorn, and black bears, trumpeter swans, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. A variety of vegetation types is encountered, from near-desert vegetation around the North Entrance to subalpine meadows and forests on Mt. Washburn. Lodgepole pine covers about 60 percent of the park and constitutes about 80 percent of the forested areas. Yellowstone would be a premier national park for its scenery or its wildlife alone, but its history

also resonates with colorful tales of fur trappers—Jim Bridger and Osborne Russell—and explorers and surveyors, with their photographs and journals. William Henry Jackson's photographs and Thomas Moran's sketches influenced Congress to establish Yellowstone as the world's first national park in 1872. This national park idea has now become a land-use model for many nations, and Yellowstone has evolved from a pleasure ground and wildlife refuge to be recognized today as an International Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site as well. The guide below can help you choose what to see within the time limits of your Yellowstone visit. We hope it will make your travel more

efficient and rewarding. The guide presents capsule advice on three segments of the park's Grand Loop. This figure-8 shaped road system was designed to present the park's major attractions to travelers. Facilities and services are shown on the map, and may also be found in the gateway communities—Jackson and Cody, Wyo., and West Yellowstone, Gardiner, Silver Lake, and Cooke City, Mont. Ask at the visitor centers for other publications to help you explore the park. And remember: Park roads sample but a fraction of Yellowstone National Park. The rest is backcountry—traversed by 1,000 miles of trails.

A Guide to the Park and Its Wildlife



Regulations to Protect You and the Park

All wildlife, especially bison and bears, can be dangerous. Keep your distance. Never approach, harass, or feed any animal, even small ones. Pets must be leashed; they are prohibited on trails and in the backcountry. Camp and build fires only in designated areas.

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 911 or (307) 344-7351

Swimming or bathing in thermal pools or streams. Stay on trails to protect yourself and features. Throwing coins and other items into thermal pools damages them and is illegal. Climbing in the Canyon area is dangerous to you and others and is prohibited.

Boating and fishing permits. Boating is required and available at ranger stations. Boating is allowed only on lakes, which are dangerous to hike alone. Always register at the trail head before your trip. Know how to store your food in bear country. Vehicles and bicycles are prohibited on trails.

Maximum speed limit is 45 mph. Lower speed limits are in effect on roads with narrow shoulders. Drive defensively! Traffic accidents cause more injuries to visitors than natural hazards. Use pullouts to pass. Be alert for pedestrians and bicyclists. Driving off roads is not permitted.

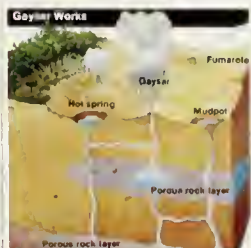
Outfacing park features. Collecting natural or archeological objects, picking up garbage, and littering are illegal. Store your valuables securely and lock your vehicle. Report thefts or accidents promptly to a ranger.

Where to Watch for Wildlife. The best times to see wild animals in summer are early morning and late evening. The Hayden Valley between Fishing Bridge and Canyon and Pelican Creek east of Fishing Bridge are prime places to watch for bison in the Hayden Valley and waterfowl along

Bear Country. Grizzly and black bears are wild and dangerous. People have been seriously injured, maimed, and killed by both. Bears appear tolerant of people but may attack without warning. Always view bears from a safe distance. **FEEDING WILDLIFE IS UNLAWFUL.** Animals who receive handouts often become aggressive, cause personal injury, and must be destroyed. Store all food in your car, never in your tent. Dispose of garbage in bear-proof garbage cans. Obtain information on hiking and camping in bear country at a ranger station or visitor center.



Old Faithful to Mammoth Hot Springs



Hot water seeps from porous rock layers to be heated under pressure. Fumaroles lack enough moisture to flow vent steam. Hot springs are geysers whose acid or alkaline pressure drops and it bubbles into the steam of a geyser. Hot

Old Faithful to Madison. In Black Sand Basin the bright colors of Sunset Lake and Emerald Pool attract photographers. At Brickett Basin mineral deposits look on basalt about 1950 earthquake triggered changes destroying the basins. At Midway Geyser Basin you may walk to Excelsior Geyser Crater and Grand Prismatic Spring. Firehole Lake Drive (one way northbound) loops off the main road to Great Fountain Geyser. Firehole Lake, a hot pool, and the Three Senses Trail. The Lower Geyser Basin features the Fountain Paint Pots. Fountain Flat Drive exits west and ends at Goose Lake. Firehole Canyon loop drive (one way southbound) starting south of Madison Junction passes by Firehole Falls. The museum at Madison Junction portrays the evolution of the national park idea. Roadside forests are mainly lodgepole pine, some red-floored by the feeding of mountain pine beetles. West Yellowstone, Mont., is 14 miles west of Madison Junction. From Madison to Norris you drive along the Yellowstone caldera as north west rim. Gibbon Falls cascade over the caldera wall.

Norris Junction to Mammoth Hot Springs. Norris Geyser Basin's array of thermal features is unparalleled. Steamboat Geyser, the world's largest erupts at irregular intervals of days to years. Echinus Geyser erupts about once per hour. Porcelain Basin in Yellowstone's hottest exposed area. Exhibits at Norris Museum explain geyser workings. At Norris Junction you can turn east toward the Canyon area. At Canyon you can go north to Tower or south to Lake (see tour at right). Continuing north of Norris you pass Obsidian Cliff. Obsidian, a volcanic glass, is excellent for projectile points and cutting tools. Five miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs at Swan Lake Lake is a north and rough one way dirt road goes around Rensen Peak. Two miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs the Upper Terrace Loop Drive passes through a fascinating thermal area. Geared timber pine trees on some extinct formations are over 500 years old. At Mammoth Hot Springs the terraces are spectacular travertine (calcium carbonate) formations deposited daily. Most new rock from Yellowstone's geysers is called geysite, a noncrystalline mineral chemically similar to glass. Exhibits at Albright Visitor Center portray the park's early history and wildlife and tell how the U.S. Army protected the park from 1886 to 1916. Park headquarters is in the buildings of Ft. Yellowstone. In late 19th-century cavalry post. Gardiner, Mont., lies 5 miles north. The Yellowstone River flows north eventually to join the Missouri.

To Tower Junction and Canyon Village

The road east from Mammoth Hot Springs leads you 4 miles to Undine Falls, then 2 miles to Lava Creek (picnicking). Three miles further east look for water fowl and muskies at Blacktail Pond. Near Blacktail Plateau Drive, a one-way dirt road eastbound, leaves the main road to traverse grassy and sagebrush-covered hills and forests of Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce, and lodgepole pine. Watch for pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and elk. Scattered groves of quaking aspen trees turn gold in autumn. The next side road leads to a petrified redwood tree. Such trees may be found over hundreds of square miles in northern Yellowstone. Some are still in an upright position.

Tower Junction to Northeast Entrance. Lamar Valley, accessible all year, is winter range for elk and bison. You may camp at Slough Creek or Pebble Creek campgrounds on route to the Northeast Entrance. 29 miles from Tower Junction. Beyond the Silver Gate 11 miles and Cooke City 4 miles. Mont. and the Bearfoot Highway climbs to 10,040 feet at Bearfoot Pass.

Tower Junction to Canyon. Tower Falls, tumbling 132 feet, was named for the adjacent volcanic pinnacles. Tower Creek flows into the Yellowstone River. South from Tower Falls, as you drive up Mount Washburn, look east down slope into prime grizzly bear country on Antelope Creek. This area is closed to human travel. To enter the bears' refuge, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FEED OR APPROACH BEARS.** The main road north crosses Crownover Pass at 8,550 feet elevation, amidst broad topped whitebark pines and sage shrubed subalpine fir. Meadows produce a profusion of wildflowers during the brief summer. From the Washburn Hot Springs overlook south of the pass, you can see the Yellowstone caldera. Its north boundary is Mount Washburn and its south boundary is the Red Mountains 35 miles away. You can see the Teton Range on clear days on the right beyond the Red Mountains.

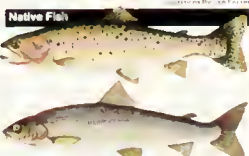
Early Visitors. Since the late 1800s Yellowstone has been a mecca for travelers. The world's first national park was soon a popular spot. These folks lived in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone where Uncle Tom Richardson served their dinner.

more than once perhaps by great glacial outburst floods. Little deepening takes place today.

Grandview Point. A distant view of the 308 foot Lower Falls. Lookout Point affords a vista of Lower Falls, and a steep trail descends to a closer viewpoint. Back on the main road, turn left on 0.3 miles to view the brink of the 109 foot Upper Falls. Back on the main road again, go 0.6 miles south to Artist Point Road and cross Childsden Bridge to Uncle Tom's Parking Area. Trails here offer close views of the Upper and Lower Falls. South Rim Drive leads to Artist Point for another view of the canyon and Lower Falls.

The Lake Area

East Entrance to Fishing Bridge Junction. Cody, Wyo., lies 50 miles beyond the East Entrance. As you cross 8,530-foot elevation Sylvan Pass, watch for pikas and yellow bellied marmots illustrated above. In the rocky debris of talus slopes. You descend the west slope of the Absaroka Mountains, an eroded volcanic range named for the Crow Indians. Near Yellowstone Lake a spur road leads to Lake Butte Overlook for a view of this immense body of water. Yellowstone Lake occupies only the southeast quarter of the Yellowstone caldera (see top left). At the overlook you are 4 miles outside the caldera's east boundary. Just north of the lake the Earth's surface is rising about 0.9 inches per year! This suggests future volcanic activity. As you drive along the lake's edge, you can see average surface temperature in August is about 42°F. The lake's outlet. The bridge was closed to fishing in 1913. Fishing Bridge now offers one of the best wild trout spawning shows anywhere for most of the summer. White pelicans feed on the native cut-throat trout. Because of a high level of bear activity, hard-sided units are allowed to camp in the Fishing Bridge area.



Yellowstone has 3 native subspecies of cutthroat trout, named for the red marks on lower jaws. Mountain whitefish are also park natives.

Exhibits at Fishing Bridge Museum feature the park's birds. Fishing Bridge itself spans the Yellowstone River, the lake's outlet. The bridge was closed to fishing in 1913. Fishing Bridge now offers one of the best wild trout spawning shows anywhere for most of the summer. White pelicans feed on the native cut-throat trout. Because of a high level of bear activity, hard-sided units are allowed to camp in the Fishing Bridge area.

West Thumb and Grant Village. Walk the boardwalk through the geyser basin of Lake's edge at West Thumb. Intense heat measured in lake sediments below West Thumb indicates a shallow thermal system underlying this more recent caldera within the Yellowstone caldera. Should the lake level fall just a few feet, an immense steam (hydrothermal) explosion could occur here. That is what excited the creators now filled by Mary Bay and Indian Pond, described above. Exhibits at Grant Village Visitor Center, two miles south of West Thumb, feature the park's immense wilderness. Fishing, boating, and backcountry use permits are available at the ranger station.

For more information about the park, write to: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, or telephone (307) 344-7351.

Yellowstone

Useful Road Distances

Grand Loop road	142mi
Lower Loop road	96mi
Upper Loop road	70mi

Old Faithful to Canyon via Madison and Norris

Old Faithful to Canyon via West Thumb and Lake Village

Old Faithful to South entrance via Madison and Old Faithful

Old Faithful to Canyon via Madison and Norris

Old Faithful to Canyon via West Thumb and Lake Village

Old Faithful to South entrance via Madison and Old Faithful

Mammoth Hot Springs 90mi to East Entrance via Tower and Canyon

Mammoth Hot Springs 90mi to South entrance via Madison and Old Faithful

Fishing Bridge to 97mi South Entrance via Canyon Norris, and Old Faithful

Services and Facilities

- Ranger station
 - Campground
 - Lodging
 - Food service
 - Gas station
 - Bus
 - Bike
 - Horse
 - Interpreted trail
 - Horse rental
- Backcountry use**
Call permits required for backcountry camping and trail maps at most ranger stations. Do not use fire for backcountry hiking. There are over 1,000 miles of trails.
- Winter road closures**
From about November 1 to April 30 most park roads are closed. The only exception is the road within the park between the North Entrance and Cooke City. It is open all year. From May 1 to September 30 most roads are open. Snowmobiles may be used on unpaved groomed park roads. Call park headquarters for regulations.



Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming / Idaho / Montana

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